



## Characters to Watch

Palmer Joss, the “religious” guy

- Describe his “testimony” about his faith? From where does he tell this story?
- Ministers can sometimes carry around a leather-bound book (i.e. the Bible). What does Palmer carry around?
- Describe his faith? What does he have faith in? How does it make him different (or not) from those around him?

Ellie Arroway, the “scientist”

- Does Ellie have faith?
- What are her objections to or about the existence of God?
- In your opinion does she use “Ockham's Razor” as an effective reason for disbelief?
- Discuss Ellie’s extreme trust in the goodwill of aliens? Why does she think they will be all nice people?

## Questions to Ask

- Who are the “Christians” in the movie? How are they portrayed?
- How does the movie define faith? Is this the same type of faith in the Scriptures?
- Do you agree/disagree with the following statement about the possibility of Extraterrestrial life:

“The Universe is so large, that if we are alone, it seems like an awful waste of space”  
*This statement is both a “quantitative” and a “qualitative” analysis*

- What Scriptural reasons can be given for the vastness and glory of the physical universe (the heavens)?

## Useful Definitions

### Ockham's Razor

Popular name for a principle laid down by William of Ockham (1285-1349). It is also called the Principle of Parsimony. In its popular form it states that the simplest explanation is the best explanation. This is often taken to mean “the fewer, the truer” and by logical extension “the fewest, the truest.” However, this is not what Ockham had in mind. In the original form given by Ockham the principle merely affirms that “causes should not be multiplied without necessity.” That is, one should not posit more causes than are necessary to explain the data.— Geisler, Norman “The Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics” Baker 1999 page 548

### Faith

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” **Hebrews 11:1**  
Faith always has an object...it is never devoid of reason, but cannot come from reason alone. Faith is a gift from God, but that which we place our faith (trust) in, is reliable and verifiable.



POWER OF CHANGE